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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/716,731	11/20/2000	Michael R. May	SIG000050	8005

7590 04/22/2003

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EXAMINER

LUU, AN T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2816

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/716,731

Applicant(s)

MAY ET AL.

Examiner

An T. Luu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 March 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's Amendment filed on 3-10-03 has been received and entered in the case. The rejections set forth in the previous Office Action are maintained as indicated below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Ciccone reference (U.S. Patent 5,917,255)

Ciccone discloses in figure 3 an apparatus for providing method for enabling an IC, the method comprises steps of establishing an idle state that holds a portion of the IC in a reset condition when a power source is operably coupled to the IC (col. 1, lines 12-16 and col. 3, lines 12-27); receiving a power enable signal (MANUAL); enabling, in response to the power enable signal, an on-chip power converter (transistors PWK and PMAM) of the IC to generate one supply (PORDC) from a power source (Vps); and when the one supply has reached a steady-state (col. 1, lines 61-67, col. 2, lines 1-5), enabling functionality of the IC as required by claim 1.

As to claim 2, signal PORX and column 4, lines 17-26, read on the recitation of claim.

As to claim 3, clock signal POR (col.4, line 6-16) meets the requirements of claims.

As to claim 4, it is noted that the feedback POR signal is for de-asserting the reset signal PORX (col. 4, lines 31-47).

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As to claim 5, the scope of this claim is similar to the combination of claims 3 and 4. Therefore, it is rejected for the same reason set forth above.

As to claim 9, PORDC is considered as a first supply generated from the power source and node CAP is considered as a second supply generated from the power source wherein the first and second supplies are produced by regulating energy transfer from a single *capacitor* NCAP.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 3-10-03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding to the rejection of claims 1-5 and 9 under 35 USC 102 by Ciccone, Applicant has argued that limitation "a power source" is understood to be "a battery, solar power generator or other power source that produces a voltage that is not the proper voltage for powering" as disclosed in the specification. Examiner respectfully disagrees and considers the above assertion is irrelevant because the merit of claim must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow (MPEP Sec. 2111.01) and neither battery nor solar power is recited in claim.

Regarding to step (a) of claim 1, Applicant has argued that Ciccone does not teach such limitation and citing description in col. 3, lines 41-47 to support his argument. Examiner respectfully disagrees because col. 3 lines 41-47 teaches a situation in which power supply has reached to an intended level for all components in the IC. The previous Office Action pointed to col. 1, lines 12-16 to support the rejection of limitation "step (a)" in claim 1. Lines 17-26 of column 1 explain further operation of the circuit in which a portion of IC circuit is in idle state

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(intermediate state) when the power supply is applying and the remainder portion of IC circuit receives the power supply after it has reached to an intended level.

Lastly, Applicant has argued that “the present claim includes...reaches a predetermined value”, second paragraph of page 4. Again, Examiner respectfully disagrees because “reset condition” in Ciccone refers to enable an IC to “a known state upon star-up” which is also understood as “enabling functionality”.

In view of the above reasons, Examiner believes that the rejections in the previous Office Action is reasonably correct and claims 1-5 and 9 still read on the Ciccone reference.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 10-22 are allowed.

5. Claims 6-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record fails to disclose an apparatus and/or method comprising elements and steps as recited in claims. Specifically, none of the prior art teaches or suggests “enabling a band-gap reference that is used in generating the power converter regulation signals” as in claim 6; “generating a lock clock signal” as recited in claim 7; “a supply lock circuit” as recited in claim 10; and “processing module” and “memory” as recited on lines 3-12 of claim 14.

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Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

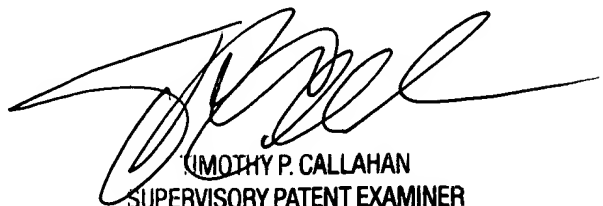
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to An T. Luu whose telephone number is 703-308-4922. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on 703-308-4876. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

An T. Luu *AL*
4-15-2003


TIMOTHY P. CALLAHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800